

such tests are performed on each spinal fluid. The VDRL-Kolmer combination was in closer agreement than other test combinations discussed in this report.

Summary

1. Results obtained with the VDRL, Kahn, and Kolmer tests for syphilis, plus the status of cell counts and total protein determinations, on 5,539 spinal fluids drawn from patients in the treatment center at Alto, Ga., are presented and discussed.

2. For each 11 admissions to the Alto treatment center, an average of one spinal fluid (9.1 percent) gave positive or doubtful reactions in one or more of the three tests for syphilis used in this study during a 6-month period.

3. Results obtained with the VDRL and Kolmer tests were in closer agreement than were those of the VDRL-Kahn or Kahn-Kolmer test combinations.

4. In 132 spinal fluids, where the results of the VDRL, Kahn, and Kolmer tests were not in agreement, slightly better correlation was obtained between the reactive VDRL tests and increased cell counts and/or total protein findings than existed between these two findings and the reactivity of the Kahn or Kolmer tests.

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Industrial Sickness Absenteeism

Last Two Quarters, 1951

An upward trend in industrial sickness absenteeism is indicated by the frequency rates for the last two quarters of 1951 and the year 1951.

The over-all rates for the third and fourth quarters of 1951 (109.5 and 125.2 absences per 1,000 males) represent 11 and 6 percent increases over the 1950 rates for the same periods (98.6 and 118.0, respectively).

The 1951 third quarter rates for

respiratory diseases, digestive diseases, and nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases are 16, 14, and 5 percent above the corresponding rates for 1950, while the 1951 fourth quarter rates for the same disease groups are 8, 6, and 7 percent, respectively, above the 1950 rates.

The specific cause rates for 1951 are generally higher than the corresponding ones for 1950. Notable are the increases of 45 percent for influenza and gripe, and 23 percent for infectious and parasitic diseases.

A review of the broad-cause group rates for the third and fourth quarters for the past 10 years, 1942-51, shows for 1951 all but the respiratory group to be above the corresponding 10-year average. The 1951 third and fourth quarter rates for

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this cause group are 10 and 25 percent below the 10-year average of the respective quarters.

The data shown in the accompanying table on 8-day or longer disabilities experienced by approximately 170,000 male employees were derived from periodic reports submitted by industrial sick benefit associations, company relief departments, and group health insurance plans.

Absences per 1,000 male employees by cause (annual basis)—sickness and nonindustrial injuries disabling for 8 consecutive days or longer—third and fourth quarters, 1951 ¹

Cause ²	Number of absences per 1,000 males beginning in specified period						
	Fourth quarter		Third quarter		Year		
	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1946-50
Sickness and nonindustrial injuries	125.2	118.0	109.5	98.6	131.2	117.8	107.0
Nonindustrial injuries (169-195)	16.2	15.3	17.3	13.9	16.0	14.0	12.2
Sickness	109.0	102.7	92.2	84.7	115.2	103.8	94.8
Respiratory diseases	34.0	31.5	21.9	18.9	41.6	34.6	33.6
Tuberculosis of respiratory system (13).....	.4	.4	.6	.7	.6	.5	.6
Influenza, grippe (33).....	8.8	8.6	5.1	4.0	16.1	11.1	11.7
Bronchitis, acute and chronic (106).....	6.6	6.1	3.7	3.3	6.2	6.0	5.5
Pneumonia, all forms (107-109).....	4.7	5.0	3.2	3.4	5.8	5.4	4.2
Diseases of pharynx and tonsils (115b, 115c).....	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.5	3.6	3.2	3.7
Other respiratory diseases (104, 105, 110-114).....	9.9	8.2	6.5	5.0	9.3	8.4	7.9
Digestive diseases	22.2	21.0	22.5	19.8	22.2	20.1	17.2
Diseases of stomach except cancer (117, 118).....	7.6	6.8	6.5	6.3	7.0	6.2	5.4
Diarrhea and enteritis (120).....	2.9	2.5	3.4	2.4	2.9	2.6	2.2
Appendicitis (121).....	3.9	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.2	3.6
Hernia (122a).....	3.6	3.0	3.2	2.7	3.3	3.0	2.6
Other digestive (115a, 115d, 116, 122b-129).....	4.2	4.2	4.6	3.7	4.5	4.1	3.4
Nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases	49.6	46.2	44.5	42.5	48.1	45.3	40.7
Infectious and parasitic diseases (1-12, 14-24, 26-29, 31, 32, 34-44) ³	3.2	2.8	2.9	2.2	3.7	3.0	2.7
Rheumatism, acute and chronic (58, 59).....	3.7	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.6	4.0
Neurasthenia and the like (part of 84d).....	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.7
Neuralgia, neuritis, sciatica (87b).....	2.4	2.3	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.4
Other diseases of nervous system (80-85, 87, except part of 84d, and 87b).....	1.9	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.3	1.8
Diseases of heart and arteries, and nephritis (90-99, 102, 130-132).....	8.3	8.3	6.1	7.3	7.9	8.3	7.1
Other genitourinary diseases (133-138).....	5.2	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.8	4.2	3.3
Diseases of skin (151-153).....	3.5	4.1	4.4	4.1	3.7	3.6	3.4
Diseases of organs of movement except diseases of joints (156b).....	3.9	3.2	3.4	2.9	3.5	3.1	2.9
All other diseases (45-57, 60-79, 88, 89, 100, 101, 103, 154, 155, 156a, 157, 162).....	15.9	13.9	14.3	12.7	14.9	13.5	11.4
Ill-defined and unknown causes (200)	3.2	4.0	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.3
Average number of males.....	172, 855	166, 101	174, 123	166, 710	170, 922	161, 525	948, 340

¹ Industrial injuries and venereal diseases are not included.

² Numbers in parentheses are disease title numbers

from International List of Causes of Death, 1939.

³ Exclusive of influenza and grippe, respiratory tuberculosis, and venereal diseases.

